

Senate Bill 199

By: Senators Jeffares of the 17th, Mullis of the 53rd, Jones of the 25th, Dugan of the 30th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 primaries and elections generally, so as to provide a definition; to prohibit certain activities  
3 within close proximity to polling places; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and  
8 elections generally, is amended in Code Section 21-2-2, relating to definitions, by adding a  
9 new paragraph to read as follows:

10 "(3.1) 'Campaign material' means any newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign,  
11 paraphernalia, or any other written or printed matter referring to:

12 (A) A candidate whose name appears on the ballot in a primary or election;

13 (B) A referendum which appears on the ballot in a primary or election; or

14 (C) A political party or body which has a nominee or nominees on the ballot in a  
15 primary or election."

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-414, relating  
18 to restrictions on campaign activities and public opinion polling within the vicinity of a  
19 polling place, cellular phone use prohibited, prohibition of candidates from entering certain  
20 polling places, and penalty, as follows:

21 "(a) No person shall solicit votes in any manner or by any means or method, nor shall any  
22 person distribute or display any campaign literature, newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card,  
23 sign, paraphernalia, or any other written or printed matter of any kind material, nor shall  
24 any person solicit signatures for any petition or conduct any exit poll or public opinion poll  
25 with voters on any day in which ballots are being cast:

- 26 (1) Within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building within which a polling place is  
27 established;
- 28 (2) Within any polling place; or
- 29 (3) Within 25 feet of any voter standing in line to vote at any polling place.
- 30 These restrictions shall not apply to conduct occurring in private offices or areas which  
31 cannot be seen or heard by such electors."

32 **SECTION 3.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.